

Who? What? When? Where? Why?

How about some investigative reporting on Canada Summer Job Grants to anti-choice agencies?

Who, what, when, where, and why are the basic journalist questions. Yet in the recent “kerfuffle” over the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) attestation, the only question the media seems interested in is: “Who is outraged today?”

There’s been very little reporting on the grants themselves.

- Who gets them?
- What do these groups do?
- Which ridings are awarding the grants? (MPs have a lot of say)
- Is the program being abused?
- What activities are these funds actually supporting?
- What is the “work experience” benefit of these activities?



Many of the recipients are charities – a very valuable privilege. Are anti-choice charities reporting grants correctly on tax returns to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)?

Canadians have a right to know what their money is being spent on and how well this spending is accounted for. Since the mainstream media seemed to show little interest, we decided to be creative with the information.

We will issue a series of materials – graphics, memes, cartoons, infographics, etc. – as well as one-page exposés and explanations of particular aspects of the issues. We hope to arouse some interest beyond “who’s upset?” (usually for misinformed reasons, btw).

The raw data from which we’re drawing these materials is available for further number-crunching by interested parties (email info@arcc-cdac.ca). But let’s start with the shocking number of anti-choice “charities.”

Type of Anti-Choice Group	Total	Charity	Non-charitable
All	285	217	68
Advocacy (political or “educational”)	123	66	57
CPCs (“crisis pregnancy centres”, pregnancy care centres)	157	146	11
Both (advocacy groups with a CPC)	5	5	0

Source: <http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/Anti-choice-pro-choice-groups-charities.pdf>

What happened with the Canada Summer Jobs program?

In April 2017, the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada reported that many anti-choice groups had been getting federal government funding to hire summer students under the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program – about \$1.7 million since 2010! (Here’s the list with amounts and years: <https://goo.gl/4C1ZsC>)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Employment Minister Patty Hajdu quickly announced that Liberal ridings would no longer award CSJ funding to anti-choice groups, and that the government would look at ways to permanently change the program to prevent any MP from allocating public funds to anti-choice groups.

In December, an attestation requirement was announced, requiring eligible CSJ applicants to tick a box attesting that their core mandate activity and the summer job activity itself would respect Charter rights and associated human rights, including reproductive and LGBT rights. “Respect” means to not work to actively undermine those rights – it does not mean support for them.